Rice Speech and Debate Wins With Young Team in California

Twelve students from the George R. Brown Forensics Society, Rice University’s speech and debate team, competed this past weekend, November 7-9, in the “Pacific Meets Delta Swing” invitational tournament, hosted by San Joaquin Delta College and the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA. Nine of the students are new faces to the team and three are veterans.

In this national “swing” competition (two tournaments in one weekend), composed of 163 debate teams from 58 universities and colleges, and 900 individual event entries, the contingent from the Rice team finished second for the overall swing, winning 34 individual awards and 2 team awards at two separate tournaments.

The Rice team won 31 separate debates.

Among the teams defeated in the tournament was the University of The Pacific, the United States Air Force Academy, California State University--Berkeley, Willamette College, Pepperdine University, Truman State University, Lewis & Clark College, Washington State University, Whitman College, Texas Tech University, the Claremont Colleges, and Western Kentucky University.

Awards are listed below.

Overall Swing Sweepstakes (full weekend): Second Place.

Overall Sweepstakes for Part 2: Third Place.

Isiana Rendón and Amram Bengio: Second Place Novice Parliamentary Debate.

Katherine Donovan and Paul Ernster: Semifinalists, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate.

Daniel LaSalle and Kern Vijayvargia: Semifinalists, Junior Varsity Parliamentary Debate.


Katherine Donovan: Part 2: Tenth Place Junior Varsity Debate Speaker.

Paul Ernster: Part 2: First Place Junior Varsity Debate Speaker.


Dan LaSalle: Part 2: Ninth Place Junior Varsity Debate Speaker, Semifinalist Extemporaneous Speaking.

Daniel Shanaberger: Part 2: Fifth Place Extemporaneous Speaking; Third Place Impromptu Speaking.


Kern Vijayvargia: Part 1: Sixth Place Persuasive Speaking. Part 2: Fourth Place Junior Varsity Debate Speaker, Semifinalist Extemporaneous Speaking

Isiana Rendón: Part 2: Sixth Place Junior Varsity Debate Speaker.

The team is coached by Director of Forensics David Worth and Assistant Director of Forensics Glenn Prince.

The team will be competing next in the University of Texas invitational tournament.